



CITY OF
Lethbridge

**Advocacy Advisory Committee Meeting
Agenda
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Friday, February 26 2020
1:00 P.M.**

Members:

**Deputy Mayor S.R. Miyashiro, Chair
Councillor A.M. Campbell
Councillor J.A. Coffman**

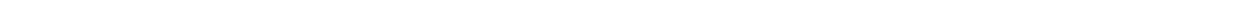
Support and Resource:

**Carly Kleisinger, Chief of Staff
Bonnie Hilford, City Clerk
Tara Grindle, Manager of Corporate Communications
Cathy Kiss, Advocacy Consultant**

1. **Call to Order**
 - 1.1 Reconciliation Statement
 - 1.2 Roll Call
 2. **Adoption of Agenda**
 3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.1 January 22, 2021
 4. **Official Business**
 - 4.1 **AUMA Resolution Review – Advocacy of a National Early Learning and Care Program – Councillor B.A. Crowson**
 - 4.2 **Invest Alberta Update (Verbal) – Carly Kleisinger, Chief of Staff**
 - 4.3 **AUMA and Alberta Coal Policy - Carly Kleisinger, Chief of Staff**
 5. **Confidential Reports**
 - 5.1 **Draft Advocacy Plan (Verbal) – Cathy Kiss, Advocacy Consultant**
 - 5.2 **Alberta Budget Overview (Verbal) - Cathy Kiss, Advocacy Consultant**
 - 5.3 **TEAM Lethbridge (Verbal) – Carly Kleisinger, Chief of Staff**
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5.4 **City of Lethbridge Corporate Branding** – *Tara Grindle, Manager of Corporate Communications*

6. **Adjournment**





CITY OF
Lethbridge

**Minutes
Advocacy Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, January 22, 2021
Council Chamber**

Members:

**Deputy Mayor S.R. Miyashiro, Chair (participated remotely)
Councillor A.M. Campbell (participated remotely)**

Absent - Councillor J.A. Coffman

Support and Resource:

**Bonnie Hilford, City Clerk
Carly Kleisinger, City Manager Chief of Staff (participated remotely)
Tara Grindle, Manager of Communications (participated remotely)
Cathy Kiss, Advocacy Consultant (participated remotely)**

1. Call to Order

Chair Miyashiro called the meeting to order at 9:02am and read the Acknowledgement Statement.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Councillor Campbell moved that the Agenda be adopted as amended by adding the following items:

- Team Lethbridge (Verbal)
- Time Change of Meetings (Verbal)

Carried

3. Minutes

None

4. **Official Business**

4.1 **Identifying Priorities and Setting A Clear Vision (Verbal)** – *Carly Kleisinger, City Manager Chief of Staff*

Cllr. Campbell moved that the verbal report be received for information and that Ms. Kiss be provided Council's priorities.

Carried

4.2 **Next Steps for Invest Alberta Discussions (Verbal)** – *Carly Kleisinger, City Manager Chief of Staff*

Cllr. Campbell moved that:

- the verbal report be received for information;
- a discussion be held with the Mayor for the City of Lethbridge to host a Mid-Sized Cities Mayors and CAOs online meeting to share information; and
- Administration explore the feasibility of hosting an Invest Alberta event for local partners and leaders, similar to the EMRB Summit held in Edmonton.

Carried

4.3 **Advocacy Plan Next Steps (Verbal)** – *Carly Kleisinger, City Manager Chief of Staff*

Cllr. Campbell moved that the verbal report be received for information and that Ms. Kiss continue to establish the Advocacy Framework and develop the Advocacy Plan and present it to the next meeting of this Committee.

Carried

4.4 **AUMA Resolutions – Process, Timelines and Next Steps (Verbal)** – Bonnie Hilford, City Clerk

Cllr. Campbell moved that the verbal report be received for information and that proposed AUMA resolutions come to this committee to be reviewed for alignment with the Advocacy Plan before being presented to Council.

Carried

4.5 **TEAM Lethbridge (Verbal)** - *Carly Kleisinger, City Manager Chief of Staff / Bonnie Hilford, City Clerk*

Cllr. Campbell moved that the verbal report be received for information and that TEAM Lethbridge be added to the February Committee Agenda.

Carried

4.6 **Meeting Change of Time (Verbal)**

Cllr. Campbell moved that the time of these meetings be changed from 9am to 1pm to accommodate Cllr. Coffman's schedule.

Carried

5. **Adjournment**

Cllr. Campbell moved that Committee adjourn at 10:10am.

Carried

Next meeting Friday, February 26, 1:00pm

AUMA Resolution

Title of resolution: Advocacy of a National Early Learning and Care Program

Moved by: City of Lethbridge

Seconded by: Village of Y

WHEREAS a well-designed, National Early Learning and Care Program, that is affordable, high-quality, inclusive, and accessible, will support families economically and support more women in joining and staying in the workforce, and

WHEREAS the COVID pandemic has shown how communities and families are negatively impacted when early learning and care is not accessible, inclusive or affordable and should make us strive to fix this problem on behalf of parents, families and communities,

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate to both the Provincial and Federal Governments for a National Early Learning and Care Program that will be high-quality, inclusive, affordable and accessible, developed with significant long-term sustained funding and which will create a Canada-wide early-learning and child-care system; and

BACKGROUND:

Families and children across Canada have been impacted by insufficient child-care and learning during these uncertain times. This is further compounding poverty impacts, wage-gaps and employment implications for women. While these concerns are being particularly felt during the pandemic, they will not disappear in the years ahead. It is vital for all orders of government to advocate on behalf of our residents for the programs that will best support families, our communities and our country.

Support for the National Early Learning and Care Programs starts with the fundamental idea that early learning and care programs are essential for families and for the community at large. Communities and residents across Alberta and Canada will benefit both economically and socially because of such a program.

From a social perspective, such a program will support families during these uncertain times and into the future and will help with poverty reduction. Ensuring high quality, affordable programs would help us combat financial and social inequality. The early years of a child's life are instrumental in their development. Children who attend high-quality early learning and care programs are more likely to succeed in future educational endeavours, attain employment, and develop the social and emotional skills required to help them be successful. Additionally, obtaining childcare for low-income earners is now not only a considerable burden to residents in Alberta, but also a crisis to those who simply cannot afford childcare or do not have alternate options while navigating the current economic crisis. Such a program would also allow for all genders to have equal opportunity in the workforce as one gender would not be forced to choose childcare over employment.

Economically there are many reasons to support such a program. Without such a program, employers in Alberta and Canada could face low productivity due to parents missing work. There are also the lost

wages to parents and sometimes a complete inability for parents to join the work force. This results in a loss of income tax to governments. If families are supported by such a program, they will have more disposable income which can be used to support local businesses, to save for the future, to create educational opportunities for the parents and their children. We also believe that pandemic times have demonstrated childcare is necessary for essential workers (the leading cohort of the Lethbridge economy) to continue effectively working as we navigate battling COVID-19 and maintaining access to all other healthcare.

A national program such as this is supported by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce as they realize that a lack of good childcare is holding back entrepreneurs and without childcare businesses cannot be opened, which is holding back the economy and the economic recovery our province and country are needing. A National Early Learning and Care Program that is high-quality, inclusive, affordable, and accessible, created with long-term, sustained funding, will provide solutions to many economic and social issues we face locally and nationally and is a fundamental next step to permanently pivoting our economy today and for generations to come.